**Of Mice and Men**

Introduction Web Quest

(Adapated from Lowe of KGHS)

Explanation

- Of Mice and Men was written by John Steinbeck and is considered one of the great American novels. Before you can jump into the novel, you must understand some of the issues discussed in the book and the background that shaped the novella. This Web Quest will help you learn more about John Steinbeck as a person and a writer, California in the 1930s, Migrant Workers, the Great Depression, FDR and the New Deal, and the history behind Of Mice and Men.

Please complete this web quest in a NEW document, formatted in MLA. Please use complete sentences and your own words as your work. You should not copy and paste from the websites.

John Steinbeck: Questions to Answer:

1. What years did he live?

2. What kind of education did he receive?

3. What life experiences did Steinbeck have that influenced his novels? (Keep the Great Depression and California in Mind)

4. When and for what did he receive the Nobel Prize? Pulitzer Prize?

5. Why do you think he was considered a great American novelist?

Links:

§ Steinbeck and Social Conscience - [https://web.archive.org/web/20120527204322/http://beyondbooks.com/lam12/3b.asp](http://www.beyondbooks.com/lam12/3b.asp)

§ All Things Steinbeck - <https://web.archive.org/web/20160306124545/http://www.steinbeck.org/pages/john-steinbeck-biography>

§ Steinbeck Biography - <https://web.archive.org/web/20081103054547/http://www.steinbeck.sjsu.edu/biography/index.jsp>

§ Steinbeck Biography - <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0825705/bio>

Of Mice and Men: Questions to Answer:

§ 1. When was Of Mice and Men first published?

§ 2. Is Of Mice and Men often used in schools? How do you know?

§ 3. Was this novel a challenged book? Why is this book considered controversial by some people?

Links:

§ Banned Books:

<http://www.marshall.edu/LIBRARY/bannedbooks/books/miceandmen.asp>

§ Publication Information for OMAM:

<http://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=3159>

California: Questions to Answer:

§ 1. What are the geographical features of the Salinas valley in California?

§ 2. What are the main industries? What things are grown there?

§ 3. What has Steinbeck’s relationship to the Salinas Valley?

Links:

§ Monterey County Farms - <http://www.mtycounty.com/pgs-misc/farmland.html>

§ The Farm: Salinas Valley -<https://web.archive.org/web/20120106074417/http://www.thefarm-salinasvalley.com/ourarea.html>

§ John Steinbeck’s Pacific Grove - <http://www.93950.com/steinbeck/intro.htm>

Migrant Workers: Questions to Answer:

§ 1. What things led to the existence of migrant workers in America in the 1930s?

§ 2. Are there migrant workers today? Describe the types of people they are and what kind of lives they live.

§ 3. Why did workers want to move to California?

§ 4. What was life like for a migrant worker in California?

Links:

§ PBS Migrant Labor in the United States -<http://www.pbs.org/now/politics/migrants.html>

§ The Migrant Experience -<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/afctshtml/tsme.html>

§ “I’d Rather Not be on Relief” and “Sunny Cal” Song Lyrics <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/afctshtml/tshome.html>

§ Migrant Labor - <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/bus/A0833129.html>

The Great Depression: Questions to Answer:

§ 1. What were some of the causes of the Great Depression?

§ 2. What was life like during the Great Depression?

§ 3. When did the Great Depression take place?

§ 4. What is the Dust Bowl? What caused it? Where did it happen?

Links:

§ PBS Migrant Labor in the U.S.- <http://www.pbs.org/now/politics/migrants.html>

§ Compare Prices - <http://killeenroos.com/5/1930prices.html>

§ A Photo Essay on the Great Depression -<http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/depression/photoessay.htm>

§ Voices from the Dust Bowl -<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/afctshtml/tshome.html>

§ Timeline of the Dust Bowl -<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dustbowl/timeline/index.html>

§ About the Dust Bowl -<http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/depression/dustbowl.htm>

Mental Disabilities: Questions to Answer:

§ 1. What is a mental disability and how does it affect a person’s everyday life?

§ 2. What are some of the difficulties in caring for a mentally disabled person?

§ 3. What kinds of support are available for caregivers?

§ 4. What is the role of friendship in caring for the mentally disabled?

Links:

§ Mental Retardation - <http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/birth_defect/mental_retardation.html>§ Caregiver Stress -<http://www.mental-health-matters.com/articles/article.php?artID=725>

§ Friendship without Limits -<http://www.santegidio.org/en/solidarieta/disabili/hand_felicita.htm>